

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CSAF WASHDC
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ALL NATO CAPITALS
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03583

SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM; SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA AND OUSDRE/IP;
OSAF FOR SAFALP; CSAF FOR ATF, RDPN

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI
SUBJECT: NATO AEW - ITALIAN POSITION

REF: ROME 6203 DTG 041815ZAPR78
SUMMARY: WE SUPPORT CONTINUED PRESSURE ON THE ITALIANS,
AND SUGGEST THAT WE COULD PARALLEL EMBASSY ROME'S PROPOSED
APPROACH (REFTEL) WITH A DEMARCHE TO AMBASSADOR CATALANO.
IN ADDITION, WE PROPOSE AWACS AS A SUBJECT FOR BILATERAL
TALKS BETWEEN SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER RUFFINI AT THE
NPG MINISTERIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE WE LEAVE IT TO EMBASSY ROME AND WASHINGTON TO
ASSESS THE ADVISABILITY OF PRECIPITATING AN ITALIAN PARLIA-
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MENTARY DEBATE ON NATO AEW, WE ENDORSE THE IDEA OF KEEPING
AS MUCH PRESSURE AS POSSIBLE ON THE ITALIANS TO FULFILL THE
OBLIGATIONS OF NATO MEMBERSHIP, THAT INCLUDE PAYING A FAIR
SHARE OF ALLIANCE-WIDE PROJECTS. IN THIS REGARD, WE SEE
THE CONCEPT OF A SEPARATE PROMOTIONAL LAW FOR NATO AEW, AS
ONE WHICH MIGHT WORK. WHILE WE AGREE THAT THE CHANCES OF
SUCCESS ARE SLIM, SUCH AN APPROACH COULD COUNTER THE ITAL-

IAN ARGUMENT THAT NO FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED FOR AWACS IN THE PROMOTIONAL LAWS.

2. IF WASHINGTON AGREES, WE COULD PRESS AMBASSADOR CATALANO ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL, TO INCLUDE SUGGESTING THIS AWACS PROMOTIONAL LAW. AT ANY RATE, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY BROWN MAY WANT TO USE THE NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO MINISTER RUFFINI THAT US SILENCE AT THE DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIAL WAS NOT AN INDICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE \$1M SYMBOLIC OFFER.

3. REGARDING THE SUGGESTION OF AN AWACS BRIEFING FOR KEY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, WE NOTE THAT BGEN PIOTROWSKI WILL BE IN EUROPE DURING MID-APRIL. WHILE HE BRIEFED KEY MOD PERSONNEL IN ROME ON MARCH 2, IF APPROPRIATE, GEN. PIOTROWSKI COULD POSSIBLY INCLUDE ROME ON HIS ITINERARY FOR THIS TRIP. HOWEVER, TIMING MAY REQUIRE SUCH A BRIEFING TO BE SCHEDULED AT A LATER DATE. BENNETT

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